

## **CODE COMMISSION (SOUTH DAKOTA)**

### **Study Assignment**

The Code Commission supervises the publication of the *South Dakota Codified Laws*, corrects errors to the code, assists the code counsel, makes recommendations to the Legislature, and contracts for replacement volumes.

### **Summary of Interim**

On November 14, the Code Commission concluded its contract negotiations with West Group for the publishing of the South Dakota Codified Laws. Following extensive contract negotiations regarding language to protect the State's copyright to certain information in the Code, such as the catchlines and the case annotations, the Code Commission and West were able to agree on a contract.

Among other things, the contract protects the State's copyright interest and also protects the publisher's copyright interest in certain improvements the publisher will add to the Code to enhance the Code's usability for research. The contract will be for a term of five years, subject to annual renewal thereafter.

The Code Commission anticipates that the first edition of the "new" Code will be published before the 2004 Session. This will enable the Code Counsel and the Legislative Research Council to work out any problems or errors before the next legislative session. The 2004 pocketparts will be used to correct any problems.

The Code will have a new look and will probably expand from the 33 volumes to approximately 45 volumes.

### **Listing of Legislation Adopted**

The Commission will propose the annual legislation to update SDCL 2-16-13, the publications constituting the official code.

An Act to correct certain references to certain departments in the executive branch as the result of the 2003 executive branch reorganization.

### **Summary of Meeting Dates & Places and Listing of Committee Members**

The Code Commission met two times. The Commission held one meeting in conjunction with the State Bar Association on June 20, 2003, and one time at the State Capitol in Pierre on November 14, 2003, (telephone conference call).

Commission members are Michael DeMersseman (Chair), Senator Eric Bogue (Vice-Chair), Representative Matt McCaulley, Tom Lee, and Lee McCahren.

Staff members were Doug Decker, Code Counsel, and Kris Schneider,

Legislative Secretary.